



## The Pool's Cool if You Follow the Rules

By JOE FASBINDER

There's still plenty of summer left at the Stoner Park Pool on the Westside of Los Angeles.

The summer program at the pool, which is part of Stoner Park at 1831 Stoner Ave., began on June 15, but there is still a lot of aquatic activity in store for people who want to get a cool dip and maybe learn something.

Entrance to the pool, which is part of the Stoner Park complex, is \$3.50 for adults (18-64), \$1 for children (0-17) with seniors over 65 and disabled persons also paying a buck to get in. Children under 7 need to be accompanied by an adult on a one-to-one ratio, a rule change that has generated

some controversy.

"I don't know why," said Rachel Hill, an administrator the aquatic center. "The rules didn't change until 2014, and at that time we raised prices."

What they also changed were rules about the presence of children under the age of 7 came in for special attention.

"I do not know the times, or their schedule. I do not plan on knowing after yesterday. They turned my friend's children away, in his face, two times. He was very hurt and upset. I was pissed. I would not recommend going," said P.W. from Alhambra, writing on the public business rating site, Yelp.com.

Fara A. of Los Angeles, another Yelp user,



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noted that "Prices have gone up! \$3.50 per adult and \$1 per kid," she wrote. "It's still a great deal. My kid loved the pool and the water features. I was not happy that we stayed for a few hours and the slide never opened. Something about not enough lifeguards/staff," she wrote.

Sina Eratag, another administrator at the pool, told me, "Make sure you write down all of our rules. Staff interpretation of the rules are final."

Here you go, Sina:

#### Entrance is forbidden to

Children under seven (7), unless accompanied by an adult on a one-to-one ratio.

Children under the age of four (4) without an approved "swim diaper" or plastic pants with elastic around the waist and legs.

#### Proper swim attire is as follows

- Men must wear swim trunks with a liner and a drawstring, board shorts are acceptable.
- Females must wear a bathing suit, may be a one-piece or two-piece.

#### Inappropriate swim attire is as follows

- No cut-offs, bike shorts, basketball shorts, or street shorts.
- No white t-shirts or white rash guards or shirts of any kind.
- Swimsuit must cover the buttocks, no thongs.
- No bodysuits or leotards.

All in all, though, the facility was "barebones but clean. No special place for your items. Just plunk your towels and bags on the concrete floor. No umbrellas or seats," Fara continued.

"Rules are for safety," said Hill.

Stoner Park is on Stoner Avenue, which has nothing to do with Bob Marley, but instead got its name from the Stoner family, that long ago farmed in the Sepulveda Basin area and deeded some of their property over to the city for a recreation center.

Parking is adequate, said Hill, though the aquatic center has been praised for having lots of places to put your car, by people on Yelp.

In reality, on a hot summer day, the parking lot is packed, though spaces can be found quite easily at curbs on the periphery of the aquatic center.

The great thing about Stoner Park pool is that there are aquatic programs for youth, including a Junior Lifeguard Program, which has already ended for the year, and swimming lessons, both private and semi-private, that are ongoing. Youth lessons include beginner, advanced beginner and preschool programs, which continue through the summer.

It's late in the season, but not too late. Even if you miss the pool program, Stoner Park has indoor youth soccer coming up, with registration already underway. Leagues begin in September.